

Lesson 14. Lock Crime Out of Your Home

Lesson Purpose

To provide a more in-depth look at home security, focusing on doors, windows and lighting.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe home security measures to secure doors and windows.
- Identify lighting and other measures to improve outdoor safety.
- Complete a home security checklist.

Materials

Presentation: Lock Crime Out of Your Home

Handout(s): *“Lock Crime Out of Your Home”*
Home Security Checklist

Supplement: *“How Can I Make My Home Safer?”* from the National Crime Prevention Council. Download at www.ncpc.org/
Display newspaper and magazine articles about crimes involving home burglaries or tips for prevention.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slide
Introduction		
5 min.	Making your home safer from crime doesn't always mean having to install expensive alarms—effective home security starts with properly locked doors and windows, and visible, well-lighted entryways.	1 – 2
	Briefly describe local crimes involving poor home security.	
	Today we'll look at some basic home security measures such as good doors and locks, and even lighting, that help to improve security. Then we'll complete a home security checklist that will help you identify areas that might need your attention.	2
	Distribute handouts: <i>“Lock Crime Out of Your Home”</i> & Home Security Checklist	

Time	Main Points	Slide
Presentation		
3 min.	Exterior doors - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All exterior doors should be constructed of metal or solid wood. Use strong door hinges on the inside of the door. Every entry should be well-lighted and have a wide-angle door viewer. 	3
	Locks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong, reliable locks are essential. Use the locks! Use quality keyed knobs as well as deadbolts that resist ramming and kicking. Though expensive, security glazing can be applied to glass. 	4
4 min.	Sliding glass doors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sliding glass doors can offer easy entry into your home. Install keyed locking devices. Use a wood or metal bar in the track. 	5
	Windows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most double-hung windows have thumb turn locks that can be pried open or easily reached through a broken pane. Install keyed locking devices to prevent the window from being raised from the outside, but make sure everyone in the house knows where to find the keys in case of an emergency. The “pin” trick is an easy, inexpensive way to secure your windows. 	6
5 min.	Lighting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lighting is one of the most cost-effective deterrents to burglary. It gives the impression that a home is occupied. If away, consider using automatic timers to switch interior lights on and off at preset times. Outdoor lighting can eliminate hiding places. 	7
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install exterior lighting near porches, rear and side doorways, garage doors and all other points of entry. Place lights out of reach from the ground, so the bulbs cannot be removed or broken. Aim some lights away from the house so you can see if anyone is approaching. Install motion-sensing lights, which turn on automatically as someone approaches. 	8
3 min.	Shrubs and landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walkways and landscaping should direct visitors to the main entrance and away from private areas. Landscape for maximum visibility to and from your house. Trim shrubbery that could conceal criminal activity; direct light on areas of dense shrubs and trees that could serve as hiding places. 	9

Time	Main Points	Slide
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cut back tree limbs that could help thieves climb into windows. ▪ Keep yard fencing low enough to avoid giving criminals places to hide. 	
2 min.	<p>Summarizing (<i>briefly highlight each topic area</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Exterior doors and locks. ▪ Windows. ▪ Lighting. ▪ Shrubs and landscaping. 	10

Time	Main Points	Slide
Practice/feedback		
12 min.	Ask participants to complete the Home Security Checklist. Allow participants 8 to 10 minutes to complete. The instructor should circulate among the participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 3 or 4 volunteer participants to discuss “next steps” to improve security, based on checklist. Instructor reinforces key learning points.	11
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we’re doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we’d like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	12

Home Security Checklist

Use this guide to check your home for safety measures. Boxes marked “no” indicate areas where you could take action to improve your home’s security. These are just some of the steps you can take to decrease the likelihood that you or your home gets targeted.

Exterior Doors	Yes	No
All doors are locked at night, and every time we leave the house – even if it’s just for a few minutes.		
Doors are solid hardwood or metal-clad.		
Doors feature wide-angle peepholes at heights everyone can use.		
If there are glass panels in or near our doors, they are reinforced in some way so that they cannot be shattered.		
All entryways have a working, keyed entry lock and sturdy deadbolt installed into the frame of the door.		
Spare keys are kept with a trusted neighbor, not under a doormat or planter, on a ledge or in a mailbox.		
Garage and Sliding Door Security	Yes	No
The door leading from the attached garage to the house is solid wood or metal-clad and protected with a high quality, keyed door lock and deadbolt.		
The overhead garage door has a lock, so we don’t have to rely solely on the automatic door opener to provide our only means of security.		
All garage doors are locked when leaving the house.		
The sliding glass door has strong working key locks.		
A dowel or a pin to secure a glass door has been installed to prevent the door from being shoved aside or lifted off the track.		
The sliding door is locked every night and each time we leave the house.		
Protecting Windows	Yes	No
Every window in the house has a working key lock or is securely pinned.		

Windows are always locked, even when they are opened a few inches for ventilation.		
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Outdoor Security	Yes	No
Shrubs and bushes are trimmed so there is no place for someone to hide.		
At night, there are no dark areas around our house, garage or yard where prowlers could hide.		
Floodlights are used appropriately to ensure effective illumination.		
Outdoor lights are on in the evening – whether someone is at home or not, or a photocell or motion-sensitive lighting system has been installed.		
Our house number is clearly displayed so police and other emergency vehicles can find the house quickly.		
Security When Away From Home	Yes	No
At least two light timers have been set to turn the lights on and off in a logical sequence when we are away for an extended time period.		
The motion detector or other alarm system (if we have one) has been activated when we leave home.		
Mail and newspaper deliveries have been stopped, or arrangements for a neighbor/friend to pick them up have been made, when we go away from home for a period of time.		
A neighbor has been asked to tend the yard and watch our home while we are away.		
Outdoor Valuables and Personal Property	Yes	No
Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked with high-security, laminated padlocks.		
Gate latches, garage doors and shed doors are locked after every use.		
Bikes are always locked, even if we leave them for just a minute.		

	Yes	No
Firearms are stored unloaded and locked in storage boxes and secured with trigger guard locks.		
Valuable items, such as televisions, stereos and computers have been inscribed with the identifying number approved by local law enforcement.		
Our home inventory is up-to-date and includes photos. A complete inventory is kept somewhere outside of the house.		



14. Lock Crime Out of Your Home

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I know more measures for securing doors and windows.	1	2	3	4
b) I know more measures to improve outdoor safety.	1	2	3	4
c) I know more strategies for securing a home when traveling or otherwise away.	1	2	3	4
d) I am likely to report a home burglary or other theft of property.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

